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MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—"May I know, Sir, whether before the amalgamation each port did not keep separate accounts under the Indian Ports Act?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"Before the amalgamation each port was keeping a separate account but after the amalgamation, there is only one combined account for all ports."

MR. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Is it not a serious irregularity that such accounts are not kept for each port?"

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"I do not see any irregularity in it."

Port Conservancy Boards and Landing and Shipping Fees Committees and their function in respect of the ports.

* 71-B *Q.*—MR. J. A. SALDANHA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased—

(*a*) to place before the House the rules by which the Port Conservancy Boards and the Landing and Shipping Fees Committees are governed; and to state—

(*b*) what objects these bodies have in view in connexion with the administration of ports, respectively;

(*c*) what their respective powers and duties are;

(*d*) what defects exist in the statutory constitution and basis of these bodies;

(*e*) how they are sought to be mended;

(*f*) what powers of control can be exercised by the Provincial Legislature over the administration of the ports under the Government of India Act;

(*g*) whether details of income and expenditure of the several ports may be made available to the public in connexion with their administration by the Madras Ports department;

(*h*) by which officer of Government are the accounts kept by the port authorities audited, and whether the audit notes are submitted to Government and orders passed thereon; and

(*i*) the income and expenditure of the ports of Mangalore and Malpe for the year 1937–38 with the audit notes of the auditing officer thereon and Government Orders thereon?

THE HON. MR. YAKUB HASAN:—"(*a*) *to* (*c*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 4 on page 21 of Council Debates, Volume III, No. I, dated 21st December 1937. As stated therein, paragraphs 194–195 of the Port Manual (Sixth Edition) contain the rules in regard to the constitution,

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powers and duties of Landing and Shipping Fees Committees and Port Conservancy Boards. These committees and boards are to attend to the proper working and conservancy of the ports concerned.

"(*d*) The Government are not aware of any defects.

"(*e*) Does not arise.

"(*f*) The Provincial Legislature have absolute control over the minor ports in this Province (i.e., other than the major ports of Madras, Vizagapatam and Cochin).

"(*g*) Statement of financial transactions of port and marine funds for each official year is published for the information of the public, in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

"(*h*) The Examiner, Local Fund Accounts, audits the accounts of the Port department and submits a report to Government. The report is examined by Government and necessary orders are passed thereon.

"(*i*) The income and expenditure of the ports of Mangalore and Malpe for the year 1937–38 are as follows:—

	Income.	Expenditure.
	RS.	RS.
(*a*) *Minor Ports Fund.*		
Mangalore	34,779	15,520
Malpe	1,782	2,118
(*b*) *Landing and Shipping Fund.*		
Mangalore	78,702	1,69,906*
Malpe	2,294	1,501

(* Includes Rs. 30,000 towards repayment of loan to Minor Ports Fund.)

"No separate audit report for each port is submitted by the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts. His consolidated audit report for 1937–38 has not yet been received."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"I submit, Sir, that the lot of figures quoted in the answer are difficult to catch and much less to remember and therefore, may I suggest, Sir, that these figures be printed and placed before the House, in the form of statements to enable members to scrutinize them and put supplementary questions?"

Mr. PRESIDENT:—"They will be printed with the answers."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"What I submit, Sir, is that since there are so many figures quoted, it is not possible for anybody to catch them when read out or to remember them?"

Mr. PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member may refer to them when they are printed along with the proceedings."

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Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—" My point is, what is the use of giving a number of figures without our being able to ask supplementary questions on them? "

Mr. PRESIDENT:—" The hon. Member must be quick and smart enough to understand them."

Mr. D. M. REID:—" May I know, Sir, whether this amount of Rs. 30,000 represents the instalment of the loan taken from the Minor Ports Fund? "

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:" Rupees 30,000 was paid towards the repayment of the loan from the Mangalore Landing and Shipping Fund."

Mr. D. M. REID:—" Is it customary for separate ports to obtain loans from the Minor Ports Fund for their purposes? "

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" Yes, Landing and Shipping committees sometimes take loans for their purpose from Government and those loans are given from the Minor Ports Fund."

Mr. D. M. REID:—" May I know, if there is a regular practice of giving loans for works from the Minor Ports Fund and not to give grants from their very considerable funds? "

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" Sometimes full grants are given, sometimes half-grants are given and sometimes loans are also given according to the nature of the purpose for which such amounts are asked."

Mr. D. M. REID:—" If loans are given for particular ports from the fund, how can the Government correctly look after them if the accounts of all the ports are merged into one? I do not see how loans to ports can be separate if the accounts are merged in the whole bunch of ports? "

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" These loans are taken by the Landing and Shipping Committees and there are ten such committees functioning. Their accounts are kept separate. They borrow from the Minor Ports Fund and repay."

Mr. D. M. REID:—" If the Hon. Minister would give it, may I have the total amount of all the loans taken by the various Landing and Shipping Funds from the Minor Ports Fund? "

The Hon. Mr. YAKUB HASAN:—" I cannot give the figure off-hand for all the loans taken from the Minor Ports Fund by the various Landing and Shipping Committees, how much was repaid and how much is still owing."

Minor ports and funds for their improvement and proposal, if any, to open a port at Point Calimere.

* 71-C Q.—Sri Rao Bahadur N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR: With reference to his speech in moving the Minor Ports